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FROM: George H. Gates
OUR REF.: 7603.01
TELEPHONE: (310) 642-4146

Total pages, including cover letter: 24

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Title of Document Transmitted:	TRANSMITTAL SHEETS, RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF (37 CFR §41.37), AND BRIEF OF APPELLANTS.
Applicant:	Michael G. Coutts et al.
Serial No.:	09/884,523
Filed:	June 18, 2001
Group Art Unit:	2143
Title:	TRANSACTION PROCESSING SYSTEMS
Our Ref. No.:	7603.01

Please charge all fees to Deposit Account No. 14-0225 of NCR Corporation, the assignee of the present application.

By: 

Name: George H. Gates
Reg. No.: 33,500

I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.


Signature

February 11, 2008
Date

GHG/bjs

G&C 160.1-US-C1

Confirmation No.: 3099
Due Date: February 9, 2008IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Michael G. Coutts et al.	Examiner:	Jerry B. Dennison
Serial No.:	09/884,523	Group Art Unit:	2143
Filed:	June 18, 2001	Docket:	7603.01
Title:	TRANSACTION PROCESSING SYSTEMS		

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FEB 11 2008****CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8**I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed via facsimile transmission to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on February 11, 2008.By: Barbara Senty
Name: Barbara Senty**MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS**Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal sheet, in duplicate, containing a Certificate of Mailing or Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8.
- ☒ Response to Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief (37 CFR §41.37).
- ☒ Brief of Appellant(s).

Please consider this a **PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers, if appropriate.

Please charge all fees to Deposit Account No. 14-0225 of NCR Corporation (the assignee of the present application). A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

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By: GHG/bjs
Name: George H. Gates
Reg. No.: 33,500
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**RECEIVED
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Due Date: February 9, 2008

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re Application of:

Inventors: Michael G. Coutts et al.

Serial #: 09/884,523

Filed: June 18, 2001

Title: TRANSACTION PROCESSING SYSTEMS

Examiner: Jerry B. Dennison

Group Art Unit: 2143

Appeal No.: _____

**RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF
(37 C.F.R. §41.37)****MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS**Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Appellants' attorney received a Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief (37 C.F.R. §41.37) dated January 9, 2008, where the Notification states that the Brief of Appellants filed on October 9, 2007 is defective for failure to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(viii).

The Notification states that the Brief does not contain a correct copy of the appealed claims as an appendix. Further, the Notification states that there was an inadvertent typo in the Advisory Action when it indicated that the claims would be entered for the purposes of appeal.

Appellant's attorney submits herewith a supplemental Brief of Appellants to overcome these objections. However, Appellant's attorney submits this supplemental Brief of Appellants with traverse. Appellant's attorney respectfully submits that the Brief of Appellants was not non-compliant; instead, the Advisory Action was erroneous.

Nonetheless, in the interest of expediting the appeal in this application, Appellant's attorney submits herewith a supplemental Brief of Appellants to overcome these objections.

No fee is required for filing this supplemental Brief of Appellants. However, the Office is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 14-0225 of NCR Corporation, the assignee of the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael G. Courts et al.

By their attorneys,

GATES & COOPER LLP

Howard Hughes Center

6701 Center Drive West, Suite 1050

Los Angeles, California 90045

(310) 641-8797

Date: February 11, 2008

By: 

Name: George H. Gates

Reg. No.: 33,500

GHG/

G&C 160.1-US-C1

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
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In re Application of:

Inventors: Michael G. Coutts et al.

Serial #: 09/884,523

Filed: June 18, 2001

Title: TRANSACTION PROCESSING SYSTEMS

Examiner: Jerry B. Dennison

Group Art Unit: 2143

Appeal No.: _____

BRIEF OF APPELLANTS

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 CFR §41.37, Appellants' attorney hereby submits the Brief of Appellants on appeal from the final rejection in the above-identified application as set forth in the Office Action dated April 6, 2007. This is a supplemental Brief of Appellants in response to the Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief (37 C.F.R. §41.37) dated January 9, 2008.

No fee is required for filing this supplemental Brief of Appellants. However, the Office is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 14-0225 of NCR Corporation, the assignee of the present invention.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is NCR Corporation, the assignee of the present application.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals or interferences for the above-referenced patent application.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 20-40, 55-74 and 78-81 are pending in the application.

Claims 55-74 and 78-81 have been withdrawn.

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,274,795 (Vachon).

Claims 20, 21, 23-34 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,636,947 (Ward) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,274,795 (Vachon).

Claims 22, 24-33, 35, 37-40, 55-74 and 78-81 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,636,947 (Ward) and U.S. Patent No. 5,274,795 (Vachon), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,537,626 (Kraslavsky).

Claims 20-40 are being appealed.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Claims 20, 37 and 40 were amended subsequent to the final Office Action, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion in the final Office Action, to remove the terms "whereby, in use" and "such that", in order to remove the alleged "optional outcome/intended use" resulting from these limitations.

An Advisory Action dated June 27, 2007, stated that, for the purposes of appeal, the amendments would be entered, although the new limitations change the scope of the invention requiring further search and consideration. The Advisory Action also stated that the rebuttal to Appellants' arguments with respect to Vachon have already been provided in the final Office Action.

However, Appellants' attorney received a Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief (37 C.F.R. §41.37) dated January 9, 2008, where the Notification states that the Brief of Appellants filed on October 9, 2007 is defective for failure to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(viii). Specifically, the Notification states that the Brief does not contain a correct copy of the appealed claims as an appendix. Further, the Notification states that there was an inadvertent typo in the Advisory Action when it indicated that the claims would be entered for the purposes of appeal.

This supplemental Brief of Appellants submitted by Appellant's attorney includes the claims without the amendments made to claims 20, 37 and 40 subsequent to the final Office Action.

V. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Appellants' independent claim 20 is directed to a self-service terminal 202 comprising a plurality of peripheral devices 216-222 connected to a central processor and controlled by that central processor, each of the peripheral devices 216-222 having an independent associated control application for controlling the peripheral device 216-222, the independent associated control applications being operable to communicate directly with each other independent of the central processor; whereby, in use, each peripheral device 216-222 operates in response to signals generated by the central processor as well as all other peripheral devices 216-222 whose operation depends on or is connected with the state of that peripheral device. (See, e.g., page 4 line 9-12; page 4, line 27 through page 5, line 5; page 28, lines 11-27 referring to 202 and 216-222 in FIG. 11.)

Appellants' independent claim 37 is directed to a self service terminal network 200, where the network 200 comprises a server 34 in communication with a terminal 202, the terminal 202 including a plurality of peripheral devices 216-222 connected to a central processor and controlled by that central processor, each of the peripheral devices 216-222 having an independent associated control application for controlling the peripheral device 216-222 and operable to communicate directly with the independent associated control applications of other peripheral devices 216-222 independent of the central processor, so that each peripheral device 216-222 operates in response to one or more signals generated by the central processor as well as the independent associated control applications of all other peripheral devices 216-222 whose operation depends on or is connected with the state of that peripheral device 216-222. (See, e.g., page 4 line 9-12; page 4, line 27 through page 5, line 5; page 28, lines 11-27 referring to 202 and 216-222 in FIG. 11.)

Appellants' independent claim 40 is directed to a peripheral device 216-222 for use in a self service terminal 202, the terminal 202 having a plurality of peripheral devices 216-222 connected to a central processor and controlled by that central processor, each of the peripheral devices 216-222 having an independent associated control application for controlling the peripheral device 216-222 that is operable to communicate the internal states of the peripheral device 216-222 directly to all other peripheral devices 216-222 in the terminal 202 independent of the central processor and to operate in response to signals communicated from the central processor as well as the independent associated control applications of all other peripheral devices 216-222 whose operation depends on or is

connected with the state of that peripheral device 216-222. (See, e.g., page 4 line 9-12; page 4, line 27 through page 5, line 5; page 28, lines 11-27 referring to 202 and 216-222 in FIG. 11.)

VI. GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

1. Whether claim 20 is anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 5,274,795 (Vachon).
2. Whether claims 20, 21, 23, 34 and 36 are obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,636,947 (Ward) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,274,795 (Vachon).
3. Whether claims 22, 24-33, 35 and 37-40 are obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,636,947 (Ward) and U.S. Patent No. 5,274,795 (Vachon) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,537,626 (Kraslavsky).

VII. ARGUMENTS

A. The Office Action Rejections

On pages (2)-(3) of the Office Action, claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,274,795 (Vachon). On pages (3)-(6) of the Office Action, claims 20, 21, 23, 34 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,636,947 (Ward) in view of Vachon. On pages (6)-(10) of the Office Action, claims 22, 24-33, 35 and 37-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Ward and Vachon in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,537,626 (Kraslavsky).

Appellants' attorney respectfully traverses these rejections.

B. Arguments directed to the first grounds for rejection: Whether claim 20 is anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 5,274,795 (Vachon).

The Office Action asserts that Vachon teaches all the elements of independent claim 20. The cited locations of Vachon are set forth below:

Col. 1, lines 55-60

Transfer of data by peripheral devices via DMA without processor intervention, however, is especially suitable for computerized data acquisition applications.

Col. 2, lines 28-30

The present invention is a peripheral I/O bus and programmable interfacing device for interfacing data acquisition peripherals to a main data acquisition processor. The data acquisition peripherals are connected to the peripheral I/O bus which is provided with a direct interface to the main processor bus by the interfacing device.

Col. 2, lines 37-41

The interfacing device is also capable of transferring data between devices located on the peripheral bus as well as performing control functions for those devices requiring processor intervention.

Col. 2, lines 57-61

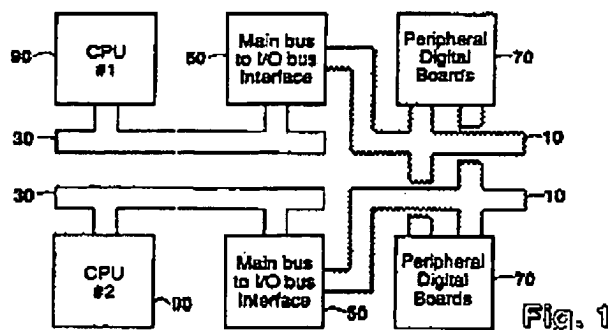
It is a further object of the present invention for the programmable interfacing device to be capable of assuming control responsibilities for slave peripheral devices on the peripheral I/O bus and transferring data between them.

Col. 2, lines 63-66

It is a further object of the present invention for the bits interface to be capable of transferring in DMA block mode data gathered from peripheral devices located on the peripheral I/O bus to the main processor bus.

Appellants' attorney respectfully submits that Vachon does not teach or suggest that each of the peripheral devices has an independent associated control application that communicates directly with each other independent of the central processor, whereby, in use, each peripheral device operates in response to signals generated by the central processor as well as all other peripheral devices whose operation depends on or is connected with the state of that peripheral device.

Consider, for example, FIG. 1 of Vachon which shows the interfacing device 50 of Vachon:



Consider, in another example, the description at col. 3, line 30-35 of Vachon:

The peripheral I/O bus 10 described herein is a **single-master/multiple-slave** bus. The peripheral I/O bus 10 is interfaced to the main processor bus 30 by an intelligent bus interfacing device used as a main bus to I/O bus interface and referred to herein as the bus master 50.

Consequently, in Vachon, the peripheral devices, namely peripheral digital boards 70, only operate under the control of signals generated by the interface device 50, which is the bus master, but do not operate in response to signals generated by all other peripheral devices, namely all other peripheral digital boards 70, whose operation depends on or is connected with the state of that peripheral device.

C. Arguments directed to the second grounds for rejection: Whether claims 20, 21, 23, 34 and 36 are obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,636,947 (Ward) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,274,795 (Vachon).

1. Independent Claim 20

The Office Action states that Ward teaches most of the elements of independent claim 20. However, the Office Action acknowledges that Ward does not explicitly state the independent associated control applications being operable to communicate with each other independent of the central processor, but nonetheless cites Vachon as disclosing peripheral devices being able to communicate with each other independent of the central processor through the use of DMA through a peripheral bus. The Office Action then states that it would have been obvious to incorporate Vachon into Ward.

Appellants' attorney disagrees.

As noted above, Vachon does not teach or suggest that each of the peripheral devices has an independent associated control application that communicates directly with each other independent of the central processor, whereby, in use, each peripheral device operates in response to signals generated by the central processor as well as all other peripheral devices whose operation depends on or is connected with the state of that peripheral device.

2. Dependent Claims 21, 23, 34 and 36

Appellant's invention, as set forth in dependent claims 21, 23, 34 and 36, which are dependent on claim 20, stand or fall with claim 20.

- D. Arguments directed to the third grounds for rejection: Whether claims 22, 24-33, 35 and 37-40 are obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,636,947 (Ward) and U.S. Patent No. 5,274,795 (Vachon) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,537,626 (Kraslavsky).

1. Independent Claims 37 and 40

The Office Action states that claims 37-40 include limitations similar to the limitations found in claims 20-36 and therefore are rejected under the same art as claims 20-36 as being substantially similar.

Appellants' attorney disagrees.

As noted above, the combination of Ward and Vachon does not teach or suggest all the elements of Appellants' independent claim 20. Specifically, the combination of Ward and Vachon does not teach or suggest that each of the peripheral devices has an independent associated control application that communicates directly with each other independent of the central processor, whereby, in use, each peripheral device operates in response to signals generated by the central processor as well as all other peripheral devices whose operation depends on or is connected with the state of that peripheral device. For the same reasons, the combination of Ward and Vachon does not teach or suggest all the elements of Appellants' independent claims 37 or 40.

Kraslavsky fails to overcome these deficiencies of Ward and Vachon. Recall that Kraslavsky was cited only for the purposes of describing communications links between peripheral devices that allow the peripheral devices to communicate with each other through broadcasting. Specifically, the citation of Kraslavsky refers to a LAN-connected printer that includes a network expansion board (NEB), and PC-based software that communicates with that LAN-connected printer. However, Kraslavsky does not teach or suggest a self-service terminal as recited in Appellants' claims.

2. Dependent Claims 24-33 and 35

Appellant's invention, as set forth in dependent claims 24-33 and 35, which are dependent on claim 20, stand or fall with claim 20.

3. Dependent Claims 38-39

Appellant's invention, as set forth in dependent claims 38-39, which are dependent on claim 37, stand or fall with claim 37.

E. Summary.

The references, taken individually or in combination, fail to teach the Appellants' claimed invention. Further, the various elements of the Appellants' claimed invention together provide operational advantages over the systems disclosed in the references. In addition, Appellants' invention solves problems not recognized by the references. Consequently, Appellants' attorney submits that claims 20-40 are allowable over the references.

VIII. CONCLUSION

In light of the above arguments, Appellants' attorney respectfully submits that the cited references do not anticipate nor render obvious the claimed invention. More specifically, Appellants' claims recite novel physical features which patentably distinguish over any and all references under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

As a result, a decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences reversing the Examiner and directing allowance of the pending claims in the subject application is respectfully solicited.

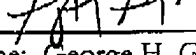
Respectfully submitted,

GATES & COOPER LLP
Attorneys for Appellants

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Date: February 11, 2008

GHG/

By: 
Name: George H. Gates
Reg. No.: 33,500

CLAIMS APPENDIX

1.-19. (CANCELED)

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A self-service terminal comprising a plurality of peripheral devices connected to a central processor and controlled by that central processor, each of the peripheral devices having an independent associated control application for controlling the peripheral device, the independent associated control applications being operable to communicate directly with each other independent of the central processor; whereby, ~~in use,~~ and each peripheral device operates in response to signals generated by the central processor as well as all other peripheral devices whose operation depends on or is connected with the state of that peripheral device.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A terminal according to claim 20, wherein the independent associated control applications communicate with each other using a peer-to-peer communication protocol.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A terminal according to claim 20, wherein the independent associated control applications communicate with each other using broadcast signals, in order to communicate a present state of the peripheral devices.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A terminal according to claim 20, wherein the independent associated control applications communicate with each other using signals addressed directly to selected peripheral devices so that a peripheral device only communicates with those peripheral devices whose operation depends on or is connected with the state of that peripheral device.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A terminal according to claim 20, wherein an independent associated control application that operates in response to a signal communicated from another peripheral device acknowledges receipt of that signal.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A terminal according to claim 24, wherein each independent associated control application is operable to identify any failed peripheral device that does not acknowledge receipt of a signal, and to communicate the functional state of that failed peripheral device to other independent associated control applications.

26. (ORIGINAL) A terminal according to claim 20, wherein each peripheral device uses a registry for maintaining a record of the functioning peripheral devices in the terminal.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A terminal according to claim 20, wherein the independent associated control applications implement a team-building process for indicating their availability.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A terminal according to claim 27, wherein as part of the team-building process, each independent associated control application associated with an available peripheral device transmits a start-up signal.

29. (ORIGINAL) A terminal according to claim 28, wherein the start-up signal includes an identifier for the peripheral device being initialized and an address at which the peripheral device receives signals.

30. (ORIGINAL) A terminal according to claim 29, wherein the start-up signal is broadcast to other peripheral devices.

31. (ORIGINAL) A terminal according to claim 29, wherein the start-up signal is communicated directly to predetermined addresses that correspond to other peripheral devices.

32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A terminal according to claim 20, wherein the independent associated control application associated with each peripheral device creates a functional group registry comprising the addresses and identity of each peripheral device that has sent a startup signal.

33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A terminal according to claim 32, wherein each independent associated control application transmits a shut-down signal when its associated peripheral device is no longer able to operate properly; each independent associated control application being operable to modify its functional group registry in response to a shut-down signal from another peripheral device to indicate the removal of that peripheral device from operation.

34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A terminal according to claim 20, wherein, in use, each of the independent associated control applications are executed on a single central processor.

35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A terminal according to claim 20, wherein, in use, each of the independent associated control applications is executed on a processor within its associated peripheral.

36. (ORIGINAL) A terminal according to claim 20, wherein the peripheral devices are selected from the following peripheral devices, namely: a user interface, a card reader, a receipt printer, a cash dispenser, and a bar code scanner.

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A self service terminal network, where the network comprises a server in communication with a terminal, the terminal including a plurality of peripheral devices connected to a central processor and controlled by that central processor, each of the peripheral devices having an independent associated control application for controlling the peripheral device and operable to communicate directly with the independent associated control applications of other peripheral devices independent of the central processor, so that and each peripheral device operates in response to one or more signals generated by the central processor as well as the independent associated control applications of all other peripheral devices whose operation depends on or is connected with the state of that peripheral device.

38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A terminal network according to claim 37, wherein the independent associated control application associated with each peripheral device has direct access to the server.

39. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A terminal network according to claim 37, wherein the independent associated control application associated with each peripheral device accesses the server indirectly.

40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A peripheral device for use in a self service terminal, the terminal having a plurality of peripheral devices connected to a central processor and controlled by

that central processor, each of the peripheral devices having an independent associated control application for controlling the peripheral device that ~~is operable~~ operates to communicate the internal states of the peripheral device directly to all other peripheral devices in the terminal independent of the central processor and ~~[[to]]~~ operates in response to signals communicated from the central processor as well as the independent associated control applications of all other peripheral devices whose operation depends on or is connected with the state of that peripheral device.

41.-54. (CANCELED)

55. (WITHDRAWN) A transaction processing terminal comprising a plurality of networked peripheral devices, each of the networked peripheral devices having an independent associated control application that interoperate through broadcasting their associated networked peripheral devices' internal states to one another.

56. (WITHDRAWN) A networked peripheral device having an independent associated control application that operates through broadcasting the networked peripheral device's internal states to independent associated control applications of other peripheral devices in a connected system comprising a transaction processing terminal.

57. (WITHDRAWN) A peripheral device having an independent associated control application that operates in response to independent associated control applications of other peripheral devices broadcasting their peripheral devices' internal states in a connected system comprising a transaction processing terminal.

58. (WITHDRAWN) A peripheral device that operates as a state machine based upon states communicated through interfaces to hardware components under control of the peripheral device, and based upon messages received from other peripheral devices over a connected network comprising a transaction processing terminal.

59. (WITHDRAWN) A transaction processing terminal comprising a plurality of networked peripheral devices that interoperate through peer-to-peer communications with one another, and a firewall enabling communications between the networked peripheral devices and a server connected on

the network, but blocking the peer-to-peer communications between the networked peripheral devices from being transmitted to the server.

60. (WITHDRAWN) A plurality of networked peripheral devices that announce each other's functional departure from a system by broadcasting the identity of any networked peripheral device not acknowledging receipt of a previous communication.

61. (WITHDRAWN) A peripheral device that announces the functional departure of other peripheral devices from a connected system comprising a transaction processing terminal by broadcasting the identity of any peripheral device failing to acknowledge receipt of a previous communication.

62. (WITHDRAWN) A peripheral device that records the functional departure of other peripheral devices from a connected system comprising a transaction processing terminal by deleting reference in an internal registry to any peripheral device announcing its shutdown or failing to acknowledge receipt of a previous communication.

63. (WITHDRAWN) A server device that operates both as a repository for software used by a plurality of interoperable peripheral devices communicating over a connected network comprising a transaction processing terminal, and as a proxy server for data required by at least one of the peripheral devices to process a transaction.

64. (WITHDRAWN) A peripheral device that interoperates as part of a functional group of peripheral devices between which messages are exchanged over a connected network, where the messages include identifiers of the sending device and of the functional group, and where the functional group comprises a transaction processing terminal.

65. (WITHDRAWN) A peripheral device that interoperates as part of a functional group of peripheral devices between which messages are exchanged over a connected network, where the messages are in the form of serialized objects that are reconstructed upon receipt, and where the functional group comprises a transaction processing terminal.

66. (WITHDRAWN) A peripheral device that announces its initialization by broadcasting a message to other peripheral devices that interoperate as a group over a network, where said group comprises a transaction processing terminal.

67. (WITHDRAWN) A peripheral device that initializes its operations by transmitting a message to other peripheral devices that interoperate as a group over a network, where the message includes identifiers of the device and a port address at which the device receives messages, and where said group comprises a transaction processing terminal.

68. (WITHDRAWN) A peripheral device that initializes its operations by transmitting a start-up message to a range of addresses on a connected network at which the message may be received by one or more other peripheral devices that interoperate as part of a functional group comprising a transaction processing terminal.

69. (WITHDRAWN) A peripheral device that initializes its operations by transmitting a start-up message used to create a registry of multiple peripheral devices that interoperate as part of a functional group comprising a transaction processing terminal, where the registry is used to identify the devices that are functionally present and to direct communications within the functional group.

70. (WITHDRAWN) A peripheral device that announces its shutdown by broadcasting a message to other peripheral devices that interoperate as a group over a network, where said group comprises a transaction processing terminal.

71. (WITHDRAWN) A peripheral device that terminates its operations by transmitting a closing message used to delete reference to the peripheral device from a registry of multiple peripheral devices that interoperate as part of a functional group, where the registry is used to identify the devices that are functionally present and to direct communications within the functional group, said functional group comprising a transaction processing terminal.

72. (WITHDRAWN) A functional group of peripheral devices that interoperate through communications over a connected network in which each device synchronously maintains a dynamic registry used to identify the devices that are functionally present and to direct communications within

the functional group of devices, where said functional group comprises a transaction processing terminal.

73. (WITHDRAWN) A networked peripheral device having a memory queue storing incoming messages from other peripheral devices that are part of a functional group, where the messages are stored in the queue in the order received and the device accesses the oldest stored message first and deletes a message from the queue once the message is accessed, and where said functional group comprises a transaction processing terminal.

74. (WITHDRAWN) A transaction processing terminal comprising a plurality of networked peripheral devices including a user interface that removes otherwise available services from a displayed user menu when an associated peripheral device is functionally absent.

75.-77. (CANCELED)

78. (WITHDRAWN) A peripheral device for a transaction processing terminal including a dedicated processor, read/write memory and an I/O port, and further including a web server facility enabling communications over a connected IP network between the peripheral device and a remote terminal using a web browser utility executing on the remote terminal.

79. (WITHDRAWN) A peripheral device for a transaction processing terminal including a dedicated processor, read/write memory and an I/O port, and further including state of health and diagnostic facilities accessible by a remote terminal over a connected IP network.

80. (WITHDRAWN) A peripheral device for a transaction processing terminal including a dedicated processor, read/write memory and an I/O port, and further including state of health and diagnostic facilities accessible by a remote wireless PDA terminal over a connected IP network.

81. (WITHDRAWN) A peripheral device for a transaction processing terminal including a dedicated processor, read/write memory and an I/O port, and configured to communicate notice of error and designated state of health conditions to a remote terminal over a connected IP network.

82-87. (CANCELED)

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.